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10/31/01/167

**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Jun FUJIMOTO

Group Art Unit: 2167

Application No.: 09/452,135

Examiner: A. Fischer

Filed: December 1, 1999

Docket No.: 040320.01

For: PRODUCT DELIVERY METHODS AND SYSTEMS THEREFOR

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

In reply to the Restriction Requirement mailed September 25, 2001, Applicant  
provisionally elects Group I, claims 1-12, 26 and 27, with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-27 is sufficiently  
related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would  
encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully  
submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without  
serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of  
the entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on  
the merits even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions" (emphasis  
added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in  
order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by  
the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:RJK/can

Date: October 25, 2001

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